

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7-10 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending application in view of the present amendments and following remarks.

As an initial matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 1-10.

Applicant also wishes to thank the Examiner for confirming the acceptability of the drawings filed on February 7, 2006, for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority and for considering all of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 8, 2006.

In the Ex parte Quayle Action, the Examiner indicated that a copy of the certified copy of the priority document, i.e., Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-290787, had not been received from the International Bureau. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Notice of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 and 37 C.F.R. §1.495, mailed June 6, 2006 indicates that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has received the priority documents from the International Bureau. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority documents in the next Office communication.

In the Ex parte Quayle Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract of the application on the ground that it has more than 150 words. Applicant has amended the Abstract, and respectfully submits that the amended Abstract contains less than 150 words. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

In the Ex parte Quayle Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-10 due to informalities. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7-10 to address the Examiner's concerns, and respectfully

requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections. Applicant has also amended claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 to remove “means plus function” language.

In response to the Examiner’s reasons for allowance, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner’s indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, as noted by the Examiner, Applicant further wishes to clarify that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and the basis for patentability of these claims is based on the totality of the features recited therein.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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